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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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FCC NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Jennifer Manner at (202) 418-2530
Jennifer.Manner@fcc.gov

ITU Development Bureau Director Hamadoun I. Touré and FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy Urge International Regulator Consensus on Low Cost Internet Access; FCC Commissioner Abernathy to Chair Global Symposium for Regulators in December

Washington, D.C. - International Telecommunications Union Development Bureau Director Hamadoun Touré and FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy today said the upcoming ITU Global Symposium for Regulators in Geneva is a “unique opportunity for regulators from countries all around the world to work together to develop a regulatory regime that encourages low cost broadband and Internet connectivity.”

Abernathy has been named the Chair of this year’s conference, which will be held December 8-10, 2004, at the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. This is the fifth regulators’ symposium convened by the ITU. To date the heads of more than 50 national regulatory bodies have registered to attend the conference. The overall general theme is licensing in the era of convergence.

Touré and Abernathy, in a joint statement, said, “A major objective of this year’s conference is to achieve worldwide progress in promoting the development of low cost access to broadband and Internet connectivity. To this end, we are confident that the regulators at the Conference will work to reach consensus on a statement of “Best Practice Guidelines” to utilize in achieving this goal.”

Abernathy said, “It is a great honor to be asked to chair such an important conference of my peers. I have represented the FCC and the United States at previous international conferences, and look forward to the further challenge of leading this symposium next month. We will be encouraging the same level of candid discussions that occurred at past ITU Global Regulator Symposiums. I am confident that all of my fellow regulators from around the world will make significant contributions to the Best Practices Guidelines that will be produced on the subject of low cost broadband and Internet access.”

The Global Symposium for Regulators is an annual ITU event bringing together the heads of national regulatory authorities from developed and developing countries. It has earned a reputation as the global venue for regulators to share their views and experiences as part of the worldwide community of regulators. The meeting fosters an open dialogue between regulators and key stakeholders including the private sector, investors and consumers.

This year's GSR will also include a technology demonstration by equipment vendors and service providers to showcase new, low cost broadband and Internet telecommunications equipment. Announced exhibitors include: Cisco, Ericsson, IIT Madras University, Intel, Intrado, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, NextNet Wireless, Nortel Networks Corp, Qualcomm, Telecom Somalia, Texas Instruments, and Vivato.

The GSR will be held at the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva, Switzerland from December 8th through the 10th. The first day of the GSR, December 8, 2004, will be open to regulators, policy makers, ITU-D Sector Members and other invited guests. December 9 and 10 will be reserved for regulators and policy makers.

For further information on the GSR, visit the Symposium webpage at the following:
<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/2004/GSR04/index.html>.

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